

In the Drawings:

Kindly enter the drawing corrections to Figures 1-3 shown on the attached 3 substitute drawing sheets.

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the thorough review of the application by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. No new issues are raised by the amendments.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claims 2 and 4.

Claim 3 has been rewritten as two separate dependent claims.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the features of Claim 8.

The claim language of Claim 3 has been added to the Specification and Claim 3 has been divided into two claims. Antecedent basis has been established throughout the claims and the parts in Claim 7 have been listed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been overcome and avoided.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is Inappropriate.

Claims 1 and 7 distinguish the invention by providing a gasket/seal between the valve and a valve seat. The seal 58 in Van Scyoc et. al. (US Pat. No. 6,354,564) is located on the valve itself and is not located between the valve and the valve seat. This aspect of the present invention is important as it allows for easier insertion and removal, replacing of the valve, as well as easier visual inspection. Claim 1 further distinguishes the

invention by providing that the valve is retained in the socket body by an O-ring. The valve of the present invention is mounted through the coupling-opening against the single-piece socket body. It is held in place by an O-ring. Von Scyoc et. al. on the other hand mount their valve from the opposite end of the socket using a stem and snap-ring. This particular design feature--a coupling-opening mounting and an O-ring that does not just seal, but help retain the valve--creates sophisticated safety and anti-leaking features in a simple and less costly design.

Claims 3 and 9 distinguish the invention by providing a specific minimal travel distance for the valve. This minimal distance reduces wear and creates a safer, more stable coupling socket.

Claim 6 distinguishes the invention by providing a single piece socket body. The present invention integrates all the safety and anti-leakage features of sophisticated devices, but in a very simple and thereby less costly design. Due to the one-piece body concept, the present invention is also stronger and more reliable in that traditionally threaded connections between body parts are avoided. Furthermore, threaded connections may be wrongly assembled and end up weakening the entire coupling.

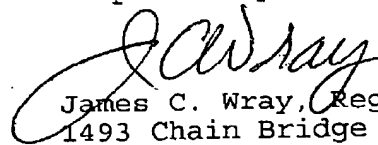
Claim 7 distinguishes the invention by providing a valve mounted through the coupling opening in a single-piece socket. Van Scyoc et. al. mount a valve from the opposite side of the coupling opening using a stem mounted to a snap-ring 56. The single-piece, coupling-opening mounted design presents

sophisticated safety and anti-leakage features in a simple and less costly design.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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